It is with great sadness that I stand before you today to commemorate the life of one of this nation's outstanding public servants. Senator Larry Gene Taylor served in both the Missouri House and Senate during his career. He was a man filled with optimism and vision and he was a legislator who was truly dedicated to the people of Missouri.

Senator Taylor was born on August 7, 1953, in Carthage, Missouri. He was educated in the Sarcoxie public schools and went on to attend Missouri Southern University in Joplin, Missouri. Mr. Taylor was a driven man who started his career in politics working in State Treasurer Wendell Bailey's office as his Director of Public Affairs. He was later elected to the Missouri House of Representatives in 2002. As a State Representative he served as the Vice Chairman on the Tourism and Cultural Affairs Committee and as a majority member of the House Committee on Appropriations for Transportation and Economic Development and the House Committee on Job Creation and Economic Development.

In 2004 he was elected to the State Senate where he was on several committees such as Aging, Families, Mental and Public Health, Ways and Means and Transportation. Senator Taylor worked vehemently to improve Missouri's infrastructure and played a key role in establishing a long term funding solution that greatly improved Missouri's education budget formula.

Larry Gene Taylor was a public servant by blood. He inherited his love for politics from his father, the late U.S. Representative, Gene Taylor of Missouri's 7th Congressional District. Congressman Taylor was also a native Missourian who began his career in Missouri politics when he was elected mayor of Sarcoxie, Missouri in 1954. He spent the next 35 years of his life as a public servant holding numerous positions including that of a United States Congressman. Congressman Taylor retired from politics in 1989 and later passed away in 1998. Together this father and son team has left a great political legacy in the state of Missouri.

In a time when politics is dividing so many, Senator Taylor was known as one who united. He was capable of working with anyone regardless of their political ideology or party affiliation. He possessed the true spirit of bipartisanship. Senator Taylor was never one to play party politics; he was devoted to the people of Missouri. The compassion and understanding that he showed to them will always be remembered through his work and the genuine heartfelt relationships that he developed.

In spite of his bout with cancer, Senator Taylor's perseverance would not allow him to give up. In fact, many were astounded and moved by how he managed to work right through the unimaginable pain and suffering that he must have experienced. His love for life is truly an inspiration to all who had the opportunity to know him. Mr. Speaker, Senator Taylor was a source of great pride not just for Missourians but for Americans everywhere. Not only have I had the honor of working with Senator Larry Gene Taylor, I have had the privilege of calling him my friend.

IN HONOR OF MAJOR GENERAL RICHARD A. FREYTAG, USAF

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2005

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a Delawarean of great character, courage, and patriotism, who passed away on July 4, 2005 at the age of 71. Major General Richard A. Freytag, USAF (Ret.), was born on October 26, 1933, marking the beginning of a lifetime of distinguished service to his family, community, and country.

General Freytag's 38 years of service with the United States Air Force began with his commission as a 2nd Lieutenant in 1956. Although he completed active duty in 1959, General Freytag's strong sense of duty compelled him to continue as an Air Force Reserve officer throughout his civilian career, holding positions at the Pentagon and the National Defense University in Washington. In 2000, already a decorated veteran, General Freytag was awarded the Medal for Distinguished Public Service, the highest tribute awarded to a civilian by the Department of Defense.

In his civilian life, General Freytag understood the importance of education, working tirelessly to earn graduate degrees from both Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. This ambition fueled a successful career with Citicorp Inc., eventually bringing General Freytag to New Castle, Delaware in 1984 to become President and C.E.O. of the Citicorp Banking Corporation.

Despite his substantial time commitments, General Freytag was an active member in his local community. For decades, he was involved with numerous Air Force charities. Following his retirement from Citicorp in 1996, he volunteered with several organizations in Delaware, including the Delaware Bankers Association and the Medical Center of Delaware. A devoted family man; he is survived by his wife Pamela, children Richard and Bliss, and grandchildren Henley and Coryell.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to remember General Freytag as a man of character, courage, and compassion, who I was proud to call my friend. I join with my colleagues in celebrating the life lived by this great American, and offer my sincerest sympathy to his family and friends throughout Delaware and the United States.

THE ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH RESEARCH ACT

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2005

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, during my life I've been called a lot of things from a microbiologist, to a mother of three and a grandmother of 7, to a Member of Congress, but today I seem to have earned a new title, one I never expected to have—I am now a walking chemical plant.

Recently, I was a surrogate blood donor for a study conducted by the Environmental Working Group and Commonweal. I participated in this important study to find out what toxic substances I in particular, and Americans in general, have been exposed to throughout our lives.

My stunning test results showed literally hundreds of chemicals pumping through my vital organs everyday. These chemicals include PCBs that were banned decades ago, as well as chemicals like Teflon that are currently under Federal investigation. Apparently, my body is home to toxic chemicals used to make insecticides, electrical cables, florescent lamps and even automobile engine oil, despite the fact that I tasked my husband with handling the car oil years ago.

I also have auto exhaust fumes, flame retardant chemicals, and in all, some 271 harmful substances coursing through my veins. That's hardly the picture of health I had hoped for, but I've been living in an industrial society for over 70 years.

While I was born in a coal mining mountains of Kentucky, I grew up in a bucolic area that did not have industrial pollution. So I have assumed my exposure to environmental chemicals occurred during adulthood. But for the ten newborn babies that also were part in this study, they were born polluted. On average each one had some 200 chemicals in their blood, before they ever touched a blanket, a bassinet, a car seat, or even took their first breath.

If ever this country had a wake-up call, it's the blood test results of these newborns. If ever we had proof that our nation's pollution laws aren't working, it's reading the list of industrial chemicals in the bodies of babies who have not yet lived outside the womb. Obviously, banning chemicals after they have entered the environment is not enough.

That we have children coming into this world already polluted, at the same time we don't know what the effects of that pollution will be on their mental and physical development, is both bad policy and immorally wrong. We must test chemicals before they go onto the market, not after they get into our bloodstreams.

Over the last 30 years, the U.S. has seen a steep rise in the occurrence of childhood cancers, testicular cancer, juvenile diabetes, attention deficit disorder, learning disabilities, thyroid disorders, cognitive impairment, and autoimmune disorders. Autism cases alone rose 210 percent between 1987 and 1998.

And we ask ourselves, why? What's happening? Is there a connection with the more than 75,000 new chemicals that have been introduced into our environment since the 1950s?

Amazingly, there is still a lack of data on the potential neuro-developmental effects on women, on fetuses, and on how long-term, low-dose exposure to environmental pollutants impacts children at critical stages of development.

For 5 years, I have called on Congress to enact legislation that would allow NIH to research the impact that these chemical pollutants have on women and children. Now, once again, I am introducing the Environmental Health Research Act. Specifically, this bill does two things. First, it authorizes the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences to develop six multidisciplinary research centers to investigate the association